

Amendment Dated June 8, 2005
Response to Office Action Dated 03/08/05

Application No. 09/868,698
Attorney Docket No. 005222.000151

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending with this paper. Claims 1-18 are rejected. The Applicants are amending claims 1 and 10. The Applicants are adding claims 19 and 20.

The Applicants filed a Preliminary Amendment on October 22, 2002 requesting that the title be amended to "A Simulation Enabled Accounting Tutorial System."

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the telephonic discussion on May 16, 2005 to discuss the objections to claiming priority by the present patent application.

Other Amendments

The Applicants are amending claims 1 and 10 to replace "the progress" with "progress" in order to establish a proper antecedent basis. Also, "the students progress" is replaced with "the progress of the student" to better clarify what is being claimed.

Priority

The Office Action alleges that the Applicants have "not complied with one or more conditions for receiving the benefit of an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120." However, the Applicants filed the present patent application under 35 U.S.C. § 371. The Applicants believe that an application data sheet is not required to claim priority of International Application No. PCT/US99/02780. However, the Applicants are filing an application data sheet to facilitate examination. The priority information contained in the application data sheet is consistent with the priority information contained in the Transmittal Letter filed June 20, 2001. Also, the Applicants have amended the specification to claim priority. The claimed priority date is December 22, 1998.

Drawings

The Office Action objects to the drawings because of minor informalities. The Office Action alleges that "Figure 11, Figure 12, and Figure 13 do not match the description in the specification." The Applicants are amending the specification so that the description in the specification corresponds to the figures. The Applicants note that Figure 10 and Figure 11 contain similar subject matter and that the specification is being amended to show this. Consequently, no replacement drawings are needed.

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Specification

The Office Action objects to the specification because "GBS" is not spelt out. "GBS" is the acronym for Goal-Based Scenario. The Applicant has included the spelling of "GBS" in the second paragraph on page 16. No new subject matter has been introduced.

The Applicants are amending the specification to associate Figures 10 and 11 with a journal entry simulation, to associate Figure 12 with a simulated Bell Phone Bill, to associate Figure 13 with a feedback display, to associate Figure 14 with steps of a first scenario, and to associate Figure 15 with steps associated with a build scenario. No new subject matter has been introduced.

Claim Objections

The Office Action objects to claims 1 and 10 because the method steps in claim 1 and the elements of the apparatus in claim 10 are not in order. The Applicants have amended claims 1 and 10 so that the steps and the elements are in order.

Double Patenting

Claims 1-18 are rejected by the Office Action under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-9, 10, and 12-19 of U.S. Patent No. 6,029,159. The Applicant is filing a terminal disclaimer in a separate paper. The Applicant requests reconsideration of claims 1 -18.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-18 are rejected by the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,311,422 (Loftin) in view of "Accounting and Financial Fundamentals for Non Financial Executives" (Rachlin).

Regarding claim 1, the Applicants are amending the claim to include the features of "querying a student to determine characteristics of the student" and "integrating information based on the characteristics of the student that motivates accomplishment of the accounting

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goal." The amendment is supported by the specification as originally filed. For example, the present patent application discloses (Page 1, line 34 - page 2, line 4):

The system utilizes an artificial intelligence engine driving individualized and dynamic feedback with synchronized video and graphics used to simulate real-world environment and interactions. Multiple "correct" answers are integrated into the learning system to allow individualized learning experiences in which navigation through the system is at a pace controlled by the learner. A robust business model provides support for realistic activities and allows a user to experience real world consequences for their actions and decisions and entails realtime decision-making and synthesis of the educational material. A dynamic feedback system is utilized that narrowly tailors feedback and focuses it based on the performance and characteristics of the student to assist the student in reaching a predefined goal. An accounting tutorial system is enabled for providing active coaching on aspects of cost accounting including debit and credit processing, procedures for closing books, appropriate management of ledgers, assets and liabilities utilizing a t-account motif. Techniques for process sensitive help are also integrated into the system to provide contextual examples to guide a user in performing a task.

Loftin fails to teach or even suggest the above features. Moreover, the deficiencies of Loftin are not remedied by Rachlin.

The Applicants are similarly amending claim 10 to include "logic that queries a student to determine characteristics of the student" and "logic that integrates information based on the characteristics of the student that motivates accomplishment of the accounting goal." Claims 2-9 ultimately depend from claim 1, and claims 11-18 ultimately depend from claim 10. Thus, claims 2-18 are patentable for at least the above reasons. The Applicant requests reconsideration of claims 1-18.

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CONCLUSIONS

The Applicants are adding claims 19 and 20, which are supported by the specification as originally filed. It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kenneth F. Smolik

Registration No. 44,344
BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.
10 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 3000
Chicago, IL 60606-7407
Telephone: 312-463-5000
Facsimile: 312-463-5001